

## Saving San Francisco Bay

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Your planning document may help mitigate the 1.6 m sea-level rise, but what if that estimate is incorrect? What if the actual number is ten times that, as been projected by some climate models?

If you look at every coastal city in America, you find that only one has the potential to barricade itself from the sea--the SF Bay Area inside the Golden Gate. A dam at the Golden Gate would not only save the capital investment in the Bay and Central Valley cities, but would save the Bay marshes and the Central Valley agricultural and natural environments. The SF Bay is the **ONLY** coastal metropolitan area that can do it because of the unique mountainous topography along the coast and the narrow inlet to the Bay. Examine a map of the US and try to find another.

The reason I am bringing up the seemingly absurd concept of a Golden Gate Dam to you is that such a thing will certainly be considered if and when the threat finally strikes and the losses are clear and present. If the sea level rise occurs over a century or more, there may be enough time to begin the long and painful political process of hoping, denial, acceptance, bickering, and finally action to get a structure in place before too much damage is done. If the rise occurs, however, in a significantly shorter period than a century, the SF Bay and Central Valley will probably suffer the same obliteration as all other coastal areas. In other words, the unique defensibility of the SF Bay can easily be lost if people are not at least psychologically prepared for action.

Preparation is the key, and preparation requires someone to start talking about the cataclysm, the consequences, and the

cures. Such a horrendous environmental disaster and such an outrageous solution must at least be on the table.

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